

Allergan Docket No. 17171ClP4DIV (AP)  
Serial No. 09/685,828; Filed October 10, 2000

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44. (New) A method for determining whether a compound is an inverse agonist of a retinoid receptor comprising the steps:

- a) contacting a polypeptide comprising a ligand binding region and a ligand dependent transactivation region of said retinoid receptor with a test compound in the presence of a reporter gene, wherein the expression of said reporter gene is sensitive to stimulation by said retinoid receptor in the presence of an agonist of said retinoid receptor; and
- b) determining the ability said polypeptide to stimulate expression of said reporter gene in the presence of said test compound as compared to the ability of said polypeptide to stimulate expression of said reporter gene in the basal state, said basal state occurring in the absence of a ligand of said retinoid receptor,

wherein repression of the ability of said polypeptide to stimulate expression of said reporter gene in the presence of the test compound relative to the basal state according to step b indicates that the test compound is an inverse agonist.

2 45. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein said reporter gene is integrated into the chromosome of a host cell.

3 46. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein said reporter gene is comprised in a plasmid expressed by a host cell.

4 47. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein said reporter gene encodes a protein having an activity selected from the group consisting of a luciferase activity and a  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity.

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